

Summary: Chatham Borough Council History (1849–1974)

Heritage Services Catalogue Summary

This archive (Reference: **CBA**) tracks the history of Chatham's local government across three main stages:

1. The Early Years (1849–1890)

Before it became a borough, the area was governed by the **Chatham Local Board of Health** and a traditional "court leet."

2. The Borough of Chatham (1890–1974)

On **November 22, 1890**, Chatham was officially incorporated as a Borough Council under the Municipal Corporations Act. This body managed the town's affairs for 84 years.

3. The Modern Merger (1974)

On **April 1, 1974**, the Borough of Chatham ceased to exist as a separate entity. It was amalgamated with **Rochester City Council** and **Strood Rural District Council** to form a single new District Council under the Local Government Act 1972.

Key Fact:

The archives (labeled as "fonds CBA") cover the entire period from the start of the Local Board of Health in 1849 until the final merger in 1974.

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